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## **UAAACT News**

### **Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology Teams**

Editor: Patricia Smith

UAAACT Web Site: <http://www.coe.usu.edu/psyc/uasp/uaaact/>

## **CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE**

It is time to be making your plans to attend the 2003 UTAH AUGMENTATIVE CONFERENCE! The conference will be held February 20-21, 2003 at the Ogden Marriott Hotel. The enclosed 2003 UTAH AUGMENTATIVE CONFERENCE registration form will provide you with additional information.

Please obtain permission from your district administration prior to registering for the conference. Also, please share the registration form with professionals and parents in your school district who might enjoy the conference. This newsletter will be the only mailing of conference registration forms.

As you may know from reading the September UAAACT Newsletter, keynote speakers at the conference will be Penny Reed and Scott Marfilus. A few of the breakout sessions include RJ Cooper of RJ Copper and Associates, Karen Sheehan of IntelliTools, Debbie McBride and Patti Lindstrom from AAC Connections, Rick Archer from Dynavox, Anna Lee Anderson from the Prentke Romich Company, Mary Peterson from Technology for Education, and YOU. YES YOU! Submit a proposal for a breakout session at the conference by December 12, 2002 and your team could earn \$500 in team equipment. You could also help other UAAACT members as you teach them about a tool or strategy that works well for your team. If you need a conference session proposal form, contact Craig Boogaard at 801-887-9533. The UAAACT Leadership Council is especially interested in receiving proposal to present sessions on low tech ideas that work, or data collection strategies to prove the effectiveness of assistive technology.

UAAACT members should start reserving their rooms at the Ogden Marriott by calling 888-825-3163. Be sure to mention the UAAACT Conference to get the \$63/night rate. January 20, 2003 is the last day to get the conference rate on hotel rooms. Team members are encouraged to share a room with another UAAACT member in order to conserve funds in the UAAACT budget.

What else can you expect at the conference? A new UAAACT Policy and Procedures Manual will be distributed to UAAACT members during our Thursday evening dinner. The manual will have information on the UAAACT competency program and the new formula for calculating team equipment money. It will also have some new forms that will help UAAACT teams and IEP teams collect data on student use of assistive technology. We are confident that the new manual will be a valuable resource to all UAAACT members.

## **Nominations Requested for the H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award**

During the 2001 UAAACT Conference, the UAAACT Leadership Council presented the first H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Awards in Augmentative Communication. Ken's wife, Ginger Rhode, and long time UAAACT member, Tricia Pearson, were the recipients of the awards.

The H. KENTON REAVIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION is established in honor of Ken's leadership and contribution to the field of augmentative communication services in the State of Utah. Ken was a pioneer in developing a statewide program for evaluating the technology needs of students who are limited in oral and written communication skills. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual in the State of Utah whose outstanding service has enhanced communication skills of students with disabilities.

This award is open to persons who serve on Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology (UAAACT) teams or others who provide leadership or direct services to enhance the communication skills of students with disabilities. Please consider an individual you know who meets these criteria and nominate that person for this award.

In your nomination, please include the name of your nominee, a brief description of why he or she deserves the award, and your name and contact information. Please submit your nomination to the Computer Center by January 20, 2003. The award will be presented at the UAAACT Conference on February 21, 2003.

Mail or fax nominations to:  
Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities  
Attn: UAAACT Leadership Council  
1595 West 500 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104  
Fax 801-887-9382

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## **Parent Scholarships for UAAACT Conference**

In planning for UAAACT services this year, the UAAACT budget was modified to include funds to pay the expenses of 25 parents attendance at the 2003 UAAACT Conference. The Leadership Council is inviting every UAAACT team to select one student's parent (or parents) who would benefit from attending the UAAACT Conference on February 20 and 21, 2003. The parent or couple selected by your team will receive a scholarship that will cover their cost of two nights at the Ogden Marriott Hotel, meals, and mileage reimbursement. UAAACT team leaders should submit the name and contact information of their nominee to Craig Boogaard by January 20, 2003.

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## **Switch Adapted Mouse**

RJ Cooper has been offering selected items from his catalog at half price. Every month, RJ selects two or three products and puts them on sale. Every team will benefit from this sale because the UAAACT Leadership Council authorized the purchase of a Switch Adapted Mouse (SAM) for every team. Knowing that each team has a new Dell laptop, we ordered the half-priced SAMs for Windows computers in November. RJ included two adapters so you can connect your SAM to a PC using the "D" shaped 9 pin connector, the PS/2 mouse port, or the USB port.

The SAM is actually a trackball with three single switch jacks wired to the side. SAM is a great switch interface, allowing students to access switch accessible software. It is also a nice mouse alternative for students who struggle with the traditional mouse.

As you consider your team order, you may want to review RJ's web site to see what is on sale during December. See: <http://www.rjcooper.com/>

And click on: **This month's 1/2 Price Sale:**

If you have not yet had someone from your team pick up your SAM, come to The Computer Center any time you are in the area.

## Notes from AAC in the Mountains

Kelly Fonner, MS ([kfonner@earthlink.net](mailto:kfonner@earthlink.net)) presented at AAC in the Mountains on July 19, 2002. She presented Assistive Technology across the Curriculum.

### Levels of Support:

#### Adaptations –

1. Any adjustments that are made in order to enhance a person's ability to successfully participate in an activity.
2. Temporary or permanent
3. Maximize student participation and interaction.
4. Enhance the respect and dignity of the student.
5. Build on student's strengths.
6. Can be useful across environments.

#### Accommodations –

1. An alteration to an instructional task
2. An alteration to the administration of an assessment.
3. Maintains the integrity of what the task or assessment is designed to measure.
4. Based on student need.

#### Modifications –

1. An alteration in the task or test/assessment
2. Substantially changes the integrity of what is being performed or measured
3. The "standard" is in some way significantly changed.

#### Definitions from Kronberg

### Types of Adaptations, Accommodations & Modifications:

#### People –

1. With adult, volunteer, para-educator
2. With peer, classmate, older student, student club

#### Materials –

1. adapting
2. substituting
3. adding

#### Expectations –

1. priority goals
2. quantity of work
3. demonstration of learning

#### Preparing Supports (from Calculator)

1. Let the curriculum be your guide.
2. What will the class be doing?

#### ■ Materials, Homework, Tests, Projects

3. How can the student participate?
4. What IEP objectives can be addressed?
5. What support(s) is needed?

Basic skills to learn across all subjects by students with severe disabilities (Downing)

1. Attend to teacher
2. Follow directions
3. Get out materials
4. Put materials away
5. Use materials appropriately
6. Request attention
7. Respond to questions and comments.
8. Socially interact with classmates
9. Attend to a task
10. Decision making
11. Problem solving.

#### Trying Out New Options ([www.wati.org](http://www.wati.org))

##### Plan the Trial

1. Choose an Environment
2. Choose the Task
3. Choose Possible Tool Solutions
4. Decide upon Measurables
5. Try out Tools
6. Collect Data
7. Review Data
8. Team Makes Decisions
9. Plan for Implementation

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## Team Equipment Orders

The UAACT Leadership Council has allocated \$1,500 for each UAACT team to use for the purchase of team equipment during the 2002-03 school year. Ordering deadlines are December 20, 2002 and March 31, 2003. Please use the enclosed UAACT Team Equipment Order Form when you prepare your team equipment order.

The Leadership Council felt that it is helpful to have two order dates. Teams who meet the December order deadline will receive their equipment in time to use it this year. Teams who order in March will be able to visit with vendors and get information on new equipment as they attend the UAACT Conference in February. You may order some equipment in December and some in March if you desire.

## UAAACT CALENDAR of EVENTS

Dynavox "Breakthroughs" Workshop by Rick Archer at The Computer Center	November 26, 2002, 9:30 am-3:00 pm
Proposals for UAAACT Conference Presentations due .....	December 12, 2002
Speaking Dynamically Pro Workshop .....	December 19, 2002, 1:00-3:00 pm
at The Computer Center	Instructor: Craig Boogaard
First date for Team Equipment Orders .....	December 20, 2003
AAC devices-Low Tech to Mid Range Products Workshop ....	January 7, from 1:00-3:00 pm
at The Computer Center	Instructor: Mellowdee Brooks
Conference Registration Forms due .....	January 20, 2003
Marriott Hotel Room Reservations due .....	January 20, 2003
Parent Conference Scholarship Nominations due .....	January 20, 2003
Nominations for H. Kenton Reavis Award due .....	January 20, 2003
UAAACT Conference .....	February 20-21, 2003
at the Ogden Marriott Hotel	
AAC devices-High Range Products Workshop .....	March 20, 2003 from 1:00-3:00 pm
at The Computer Center	Instructor: Craig Boogaard
Last date for Team Equipment Orders .....	March 31, 2003
Boardmaker for Windows Workshop .....	April 25, 2003 from 1:00-3:00 pm
at The Computer Center	Instructor: Mellowdee Brooks
Making Curriculum Accessible Workshop .....	May 15, 2003 from 1:00-3:00 pm
at The Computer Center	Instructor: Craig Boogaard

Could you use some great forms to help with UAAACT evaluations? Check out the website at: [www.wati.org](http://www.wati.org)

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